

Please replace/amend the paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 10 as follows:

A1
Figs. 2 and 4-6 illustrate the first embodiment of the invention. The conduit 9 is designed to enclose the collecting capillary 5. The conduit 9 may enclose all of the collecting capillary 5 or a portion of it. However, it is important that the conduit 9 be adjacent to the collecting capillary end 20 so that heated gas can be delivered to the analyte ions located in the ionization region 15 before they enter or are collected by the collecting capillary 5. Figs. 1-6 and 8, show only a few embodiments of the present invention and are employed for illustrative purposes only. They should not be interpreted as narrowing the broad scope of the invention. The conduit 9 may be a separate component or may comprise a part of the coupling 23. Figs. 4-6 show the conduit 9 as a separate component.

Please replace/amend the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 10 as follows:

A2
Figs. 4-6 show coupling 23 and its design for joining the collecting capillary 5, the main capillary 18, and the conduit 9. The coupling 23 is designed for attaching to a fixed support 31 (shown in Figs. 7 and 8). The coupling 23 comprises a spacer 33, a housing 35, and a capillary cap 34 (see Fig. 5). The capillary cap 34 and the spacer 33 are designed to fit within the housing 35. The spacer 33 is designed to apply pressure to the capillary cap 34 so that a tight seal is maintained between the capillary cap 34 and the main capillary 18. The capillary cap 34 is designed to receive the main capillary 18. A small gap 36 is defined between the spacer 33 and the capillary cap 34 (See Fig. 6). The small gap 36 allows gas to flow from the gas source 7 through the conduit 9 adjacent the collecting capillary 5, as opposed to out of the housing 35 as in the arrangement of Fig. 7.

Please replace/amend the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 11 as follows:

A3
Fig. 7 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative device. The collecting capillary 5 is connected to the main capillary 18 by the capillary cap 34. The capillary cap is designed for receiving the main capillary 18 and is disposed in the housing 35. The housing 35 connects directly to the fixed support 31. Note that the gas source provides the gas through the channels 38 defined between the housing 35 and the capillary cap 34. The gas flows from the gas source 7 into the channel 38 through a passageway 24 and then into an ionization chamber 30.

Please replace/amend the paragraph beginning at line 23 of page 11 as follows:

A4
Fig. 8 shows a cross-sectional view of the first embodiment of the present invention,